

...The Heavens In April...

"Wandering Stars." Snow Cap on Mars Visible. Cause of the Changes in the Apparent Size and Shape of Venus, etc.

By PROF. DOOLITTLE, Astronomer of the University of Pennsylvania.

By far the most interesting part of the sky this month is the region toward the west. The brightest constellations are there all crowded together between the zenith and the ground, while the whole eastern half of the heavens is filled with the faintest stars. The Milky Way, which may be seen moving rapidly among the stars of the bright winter constellation. By the end of the month three of them will have drawn close together, their meeting place being the most interesting part of the entire heavens. In one little region of the sky there may then be seen the beautiful Hyades, with the Pleiades a short distance above them, while the three bright planets will lie nearly midway between these two groups, stretching in a straight line from east to west. So brilliant a spectacle is quite unusual. The winter sky attains its greatest beauty just as it is leaving us.

First of all, there is the little, red, planet Mars, which has been with us for so many months. On April 1st it may be seen just below Arcturus, as shown in Figure 3, and as the weeks go by it will move rapidly eastward, reaching N. Fig. 1, by April 20th, and M by June 1st. It is as if Mars were running away from the sun, to stay with us as long as possible. The sun is also moving toward the east, passing along the path of the stars, but it moves a little faster than Mars does. Thus Mars sets a little earlier each evening; on April 1st it sets at 8:54 P. M., and on April 30th at 8:40 P. M. The sun will not finally overtake and pass the planet until July 15th.

Though Mars is thus nicely visible for an hour or two after sunset, it is each evening drawing further away from the earth, and is therefore growing fainter. If examined with a small telescope, it will appear very far from round, as in Figure 2. Possibly the bright little snow cap may be seen, and a few of the larger markings, but the planet is too

bright double star to the naked eye, while in a small telescope they may both be seen close together in the field. The sight will not only be a beautiful one, but it will afford a valuable opportunity to compare the lustre and colors of the two planets.

If examined with the telescope, the planet will look as in Figure 3, as the Hyades go on, it will approach the crescent phase, becoming half full, as in Figure 4, on September 20th and a very narrow crescent.

The observer should not fail to examine the little cluster of stars called the Praesepe, at B, Figure 1, nor the double cluster in Perseus at C. Both of these clusters are beautiful objects in a small telescope.

ERIC DOOLITTLE.

ABINGDON, VA.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ABINGDON, VA., March 31.—Miss

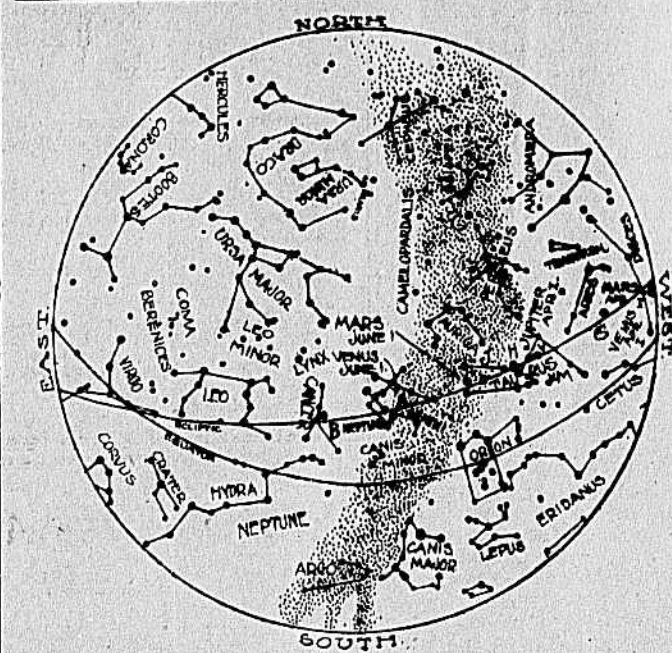


FIGURE 1. THE CONSTELLATIONS AT 7 P. M., MARCH 1ST.

row, brilliant crescent (Fig. 6), on October 24th. It will then appear nearly six times as large as at present.

The cause of the remarkable changes in the apparent size and shape of Venus is shown by Figure 6. At present Venus is at A, and as it moves toward the sun, it will be seen at B, and on October 24th at C. It will then be only 26,000,000 miles away, and will therefore look six times as large as it looks now. Only the half of the planet which is turned toward the sun is illuminated. As the planet is now at A, we are looking on the illuminated half, and the planet looks nearly round. When the planet reaches C, its illuminated side will be almost entirely turned away from us; the planet will then appear to us a narrow crescent.

Venus is very nearly of the same size as the earth; its diameter is but 200 miles less, and its weight four-fifths as much. But we know practically nothing of the conditions on this planet. Certain dark markings which have been at times seen on the disc may possibly be continents and oceans, or may be rifts in a heavy, dense atmosphere which surrounds the planet. On this it is impossible as yet to decide.

The Other Planets.
Jupiter is still in the constellation

FIG. 3
VENUS.
APR. 1.

far away for the fainter details to be visible. It will be remembered that Mars is more nearly like the earth than any of the other planets. Yet it is much smaller; its diameter is only about half that of the earth. On this account its attraction for bodies on its surface is much less. A man who weighs 150 pounds on the earth would only weigh 57 pounds on Mars; if he could jump five feet high here, he could jump fourteen feet on this other earth.

The Planet Venus.
If the observer will turn toward the west soon after sunset, and look a little

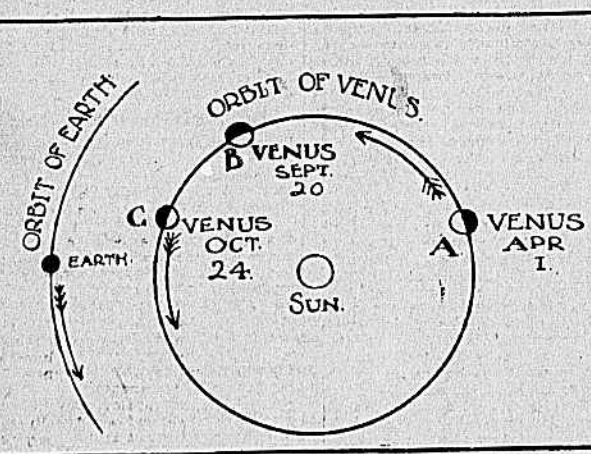


FIGURE 6. MAP OF VENUS AND THE EARTH.

above the part of the horizon where he has seen the sun go down, he will easily detect a most beautiful silvery-white star. This is the planet Venus, which each evening will mount a little higher up in the sky, until finally it will become the most brilliant star of the heavens. From this month until next November, Venus will remain the evening star.

On April 1st, the planet will be in the constellation Pisces, in the position shown in Figure 1. It will then set about one hour after sunset. On April 30th it will pass under the Pleiades at V, Figure 1, and by June 1st it will have moved on, being one degree, six minutes south of Mars. The interesting eastward motion of these three planets will well repay observation.

Neptune is in the constellation Gemini, in the position shown in Figure 1. This body is also moving eastward among the stars, but as it occupies 195 years in making the journey around the celestial spheres, its position hardly changes appreciably during a single month.

The Constellations.
By 9 o'clock in the evening, the large

JUDGE ALLEN RECOVERS

Sacramento (Cal.) News.

"After a serious illness of over a year, Judge J. R. Allen, of this city, has recovered and regards himself most fortunate in successfully battling with what is generally regarded as a fatal malady, Bright's Disease of the kidneys. In speaking of his case, Judge Allen said: 'I believe that the treatment given me by my physician was in accordance with the best methods used in the regular practice of medicine, but it afforded me no relief. Hearing of the Fulton Compound, I went to San Francisco to investigate, and was soon convinced I should undergo the treatment. It was three months before I noticed a change for the better. I used the medicine faithfully for nearly a year, and can now find no evidence of the disease, and am satisfied it is entirely eliminated. My appetite is good, I have gained seventeen pounds in weight, and will be pleased to describe my experience to any one who may call or write.'"

OWENS & MINOR DRUG CO.,

When to suspect Bright's Disease: Weakness or loss of weight; puffiness, hands or eyes; dropsy; kidney trouble after the third month; urine may show sediment; falling vision; drowsiness; one or more of these.

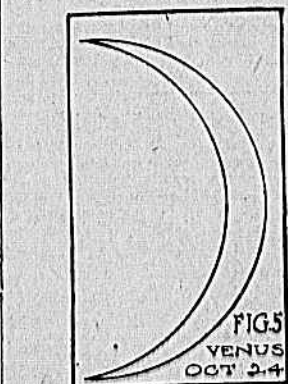


FIG. 5
VENUS
OCT. 24

summer group, Virgo, is entirely above the ground in the east, while the two bright stars of Libra, or the Balance, are just rising. Above Virgo, the group Boötes, or the Driver, stretches all the way from the equator to the Dragon; while below Boötes in the northeast the beautiful and delicate Northern Crown has now appeared. The Great Dipper is nearly overhead, and north of this the long, faint constellation of the Dragon is now in excellent position for

McQuinn, of California, is visiting her sister, Mrs. M. F. Crabtree.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Robertson, from Wise Courthouse, is here on a visit to Mrs. Robertson's father.

Captain John G. White, a prominent citizen, is quite sick.

Miss Barnard, of Minneapolis, Minn., is here to spend some weeks with her cousin, Mr. William Whiting.

Mr. William Y. C. White and son, of



FIGURE 2. MARS, APRIL 1ST.

Greenfield, Va., spent some days this week with his father, Captain James L. White.

The following Bristol lawyers have been attending court here this week: Colonel S. V. Fulkerson, A. H. Blanchard, Cloyd Byars, W. F. Rhea, J. L. Kelley, Henry and Floyd Roberts.

Miss Nellie G. Morton, who has been spending a few weeks with Rev. R. V. Lancaster, left yesterday for her home near Washington city, D. C.

Mr. W. M. G. Sandoe, one of the old residents of the town, is quite sick.

Miss Nellie Joyce Morton, who has been quite sick for some time, left yesterday to visit her sister, at Hampden-Sidney College.

Miss Catherine Preston, an aged lady, is sick at the home of her sister, Mrs. R. A. Preston.

Mr. W. F. Robinson has purchased the lot west of the Norfolk and Western depot, and will erect a warehouse and store at an early date.

Dr. Cowan Recovers.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
RADFORD, VA., March 31.—Dr. Robert



FIG. 4
VENUS
SEPT. 20

Cowan, assistant surgeon of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, who has been dangerously ill from blood poison, is now convalescing. He is a long time until his arm is well. Dr. Cowan is an accomplished musician and a leader in musical circles. He was formerly organist at Monumental Church, Richmond.

"77"

Dr. Humphreys' Seventy-Seven breaks up Colds and

GRIP

At Drugstore, 25 cents, or mailed. Doctor's Book mailed free. Humphreys' Homeo. Medicine Co., Cor. William and John Streets, New York.

Richmond's Foremost Suit House

See the New Gray Dress Goods



The Linen Show is Worth a Visit

Visit the Spring Suit Section To-Morrow



YOU'LL never again confront such a showing—such variety—such exclusiveness—such charming Suits as these. The usual Thalhimers stamp of perfection goes with every suit on display. You won't find a better stock from which to select that suit you've anticipated choosing—there's none better! Here's a few very special suit models that await your criticism, so see them.

Listen:

Fancy Vole Suits, in lavender, Reseda, navy and black, nobby Etons, with strap trimming, finished with piping and braid, taffeta lined, high grade and short sleeves, gored circular skirts, plaited panel back and front, \$20.00 value; special, \$17.50.

Attractive Eton Suits, in chiffon, Panama, all shades, rose, Alice, navy and black, with low cut vest, finished with shawl collar, trimmed in baby Irish lace, short sleeves, with flare cuff, full circular skirt, with folds, \$30.00.

Silk Eton Suits, navy, black, old rose and Alice, fancy tucking and strap trimming, short sleeves and circular skirts, \$20.00 and \$25.00.

A large assortment of the popular Cream Serge Suits, in nobby Etons and Pony Coats, some elaborately trimmed and braided, others strictly tailored, with velvet cuffs and collar; prices, \$15.00 to \$35.00.

Fancy Silk Shirt Waist Suits, in all the popular shades, made gumpie style, with

Val. lace yoke, fine cluster tucking and strap trimming, circular skirts; special at \$12.50.

Taffeta Silk Suits, in Alice blue, rose, sage, navy and black, daintily trimmed in Val., made gumpie style, short sleeves, circular skirt, with folds, \$20.00.

Eton Suits, in nobby gray mixtures, with fancy collar and vests, half length sleeves, nicely lined, full flare circular skirts, plaited panel front and back, at \$13.00 and \$17.50.

Eton Suits of Panama, in rose, Alice blue, sage and black, stylishly trimmed with wide silk braid, half fitted girdle, new short sleeves, circular skirt, at \$20.00.

Attractive Suits of Panama, in gray, black and blue; the popular pony coat, with inlaid collar and vest of moire and back and front of coat elaborately braided, circular skirt braided to match, \$15.00 to \$25.00.

Broad and Fifth Streets

Municipal Organization; Municipal Progress

By Prof. L. S. ROWE, of the University of Virginia.

The relation between municipal organization and municipal progress was impressed upon me with peculiar force in the course of a conference with the Charter Board of Kansas City. The members of this Board, known as the Board of Freeholders, were elected by their fellow-townsmen to frame a new charter. Under the provisions of the Missouri constitution all cities with a population of one hundred thousand or over, may frame their own charter through the agency of a local charter convention, and such charters, when accepted by the people take effect immediately without any action on the part of the State Legislature. The only requirement is that such charters shall conform to the general laws of the State. The relation thus established between the community and its organic law has exercised an influence on the civic life of the people which carries a lesson to every one interested in municipal government. The fact that the responsibility for the framing of a new charter rests, not with the State Legislature but with the people of the community, has aroused an intensity of civic spirit which makes itself felt in every department of the city government.

Recently every literary and scientific organization in Kansas City has been discussing the question of the new charter and the board of freeholders to which was entrusted the function of framing this charter has received dozens, yes hundreds, of propositions for changes in existing organization. Every municipal service has been subjected to the closest scrutiny and through this discussion there is being developed a more definite as well as a higher standard of efficiency which the people of the community are prepared to require of their officials. Entirely independent of the plan of municipal organization that may be adopted, the manner of its adoption illustrates how government machinery may be so constructed as to foster and develop civic alertness.

Although we have given lip-service to the principle that governmental machinery reacts on civic life we have failed to observe it in the actual conduct of municipal affairs. In most American communities the purpose seems to have been to construct a self-acting mechanism which will guarantee good government and secure honesty. By pitting the executive against the legislative authority, by electing one official to exercise control over another and by making official terms as short as possible we have beguiled ourselves with the illusion that it is possible to construct a machinery of government which only requires the attention of the citizen body at stated election periods.

Our statute books are filled with de-

scriptions of malfeasance in office, with penalties for derelictions of duty; all of which point to the fact that we are a people with unlimited faith in machinery, in government as well as in industry.

It is not surprising that this search for self-acting machinery of government has proven fruitless. It is an attempt to relieve ourselves of an obligation which we cannot throw off. In fact the history of municipal government in the United States has proved that one of the primary tests of efficient municipal organization is the extent to which such organization not only develops, but demands the alertness and watchfulness of the people. Any form of government which arouses in the people the belief that they have constructed a self-acting mechanism, not only tends to lower the standard of civic effort but relieves the government of that salutary control of public opinion without which efficient government is impossible.

New York City has advanced to a clearer perception of this truth than any of the larger cities of the Union. The abolition of the bicameral legislature, the concentration of executive power in the mayor, the relatively long term of heads of departments, have marked the successive stages towards a form of organization in harmony with modern needs.

In this process the representative assembly of the city has been reduced to a position of relative insignificance and although we may criticize the particular form of government which has resulted the instinct that has guided the public has been a healthy one. Under the present form of government the power vested in the Mayor is so great that the community feels the necessity of watching his policy at every step. The form of government demands alertness and the people have responded to this demand. The very fact that this concentration of executive power involves dangers has exerted an energizing influence on the attitude of the people toward the government.

Before we can secure good government in our American communities it is necessary not only to abolish this fetishism of governmental machinery, but so to construct that machinery that it makes the control of public opinion both easy and effective. We have too long clung to the belief that popular government means the election of a large number of public officials. Tempted by this belief we have stretched the elective principle far beyond its possibilities and in many instances have made it a source of governmental weakness. There is no reason in the nature of things why the city attorney, solicitor, treasurer, or receiver of taxes should be elected by the people.

The application of the elective principle to these offices tends to divert the minds of the people from the really important executive offices and so divides responsibility that its enforcement becomes increasingly difficult. Here again we must modify beliefs which we have inherited from a period when the appointment of local officials was an indication of monarchical or despotic power. The essence of popular government is such popular control as will enforce certain definite standards of efficiency in the administration of public affairs. That control can best be exercised when it is directed towards one or at most two or three executive officials.

There is every indication that we are gradually adopting our political beliefs to the manifold requirements of our municipalities. In that process of adaptation we must be prepared to make many changes, both in the organization of government and in our attitude towards that government. Whatever these changes may be, anything that tends to diminish the alertness of the population will to that extent lower the tone of its civic life. The relation between city and State and the organization of the city government must be so arranged as to foster this alertness, and the mechanism of government must be so constructed as to make the control of public opinion on the one hand and the enforcement of responsibility on the other easy, ready and effective.—Philadelphia, Penn.

New Game at Pool Table.

No game has more variations than pool and the latest one to make its appearance is "Sixty-six." It has a vogue in the leading clubs and is popular. It calls for skill to be played well, but appeals more as a source of fun.

The usual pyramid of fifteen balls is used. The corner pockets are numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively—that is, an object ball dropping in any of those pockets counts one, two, three or four points, as the case may be. Each side pocket counts ten points. Before the start the little balls are rolled out of the pocket, the amount recommended on the little balls being an unknown quantity except to the holder thereof, as in pin pool. Including the hidden number, the first player to total sixty-six wins, but if he goes over sixty-six he "busts" and has to begin all over again.—New York Sun.



RINGS

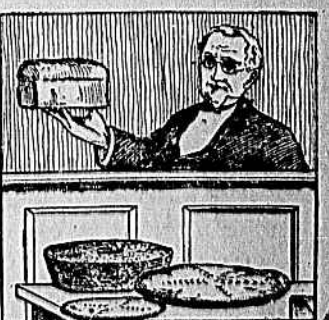
Play an important part in life if you select both the Engagement and Wedding Ring from our stock. You will be sure of getting the right thing and

RIGHT PRICES

too. Solitaires of different sizes at different prices; Cluster Rings of great beauty; Seal Rings, etc.

J. S. JAMES,
Jeweler and Optician,
7th and Main Streets.
CASH OR CREDIT.

Nolde's Bakery



A WISE DECISION

as to relative quality of bakery products will lead you to buy ours.

Pure, Whole
Baked just right and over-cured. Our Bread, Cakes, worth and suit all tastes. Ask for Nolde's Snowflake.